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THE MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN. Edited by William Starr Myers. Princeton University Press. 1917. Pp. 98. \$1.00.

Professor Myers has for some years past been engaged on the preparation of a life of General McClellan. Among the McClellan Papers in the Library of Congress is the MS. Mexican War diary of McClellan, then a second lieutenant of engineers, fresh from West Point, and barely twenty. The diary gives a picture almost unique in its freshness and its truthfulness of the life of a column of American volunteers, with a mere handful of regulars, on their march through Mexico. The ill behavior and lack of discipline of the volunteers, and the excesses committed by them are almost incredible, and, as the editor remarks, the diary forecasts the utter futility of the volunteer system in a time of national crisis.

Professor Myers has admirably edited the diary and enriched it with much that is interesting in his explanatory notes.

S. L. WARE.

LOWLAND SCOTCH AS SPOKEN IN THE LOWER STRATHEARN DISTRICT OF PERTHSHIRE. By Sir James Wilson. Oxford University Press.

The object of this book is to "present a fairly complete and accurate account of one of the various dialects of Lowland Scotch, which are really dialects of English speech." The schoolmaster, declares Sir James, is the "enemy of local dialects," and in his praiseworthy efforts to teach the village children to read, write, and speak correct standard English, "discourages the use of local peculiarities of pronunciation and idiom." But Sir James, with fine common sense, insists that it is better to "point out to the children what their own native dialect is, and how it differs in pronunciation, idiom, and accent from the standard English, so that they will gain an accurate knowledge of what standard English really is and at the same time will have a better knowledge of their own provincialisms. Such comparison of the local and standard speech would prove a useful training to their minds and would give them a precious possession; "for they would carry with them to the ends of the earth a better knowledge of the homely speech of their fathers and grandfathers,